

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the present application as amended. Claims 1-10 remain in the application. Claim 9 has been amended. New claims 11-20 have been added.

DRAWING RESPONSE REQUEST

On the Office Action Summary, the Examiner noted that drawings were filed 4/2/01, but did not note whether the drawings were acceptable or objected to by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner specify whether the drawings were acceptable.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRIORITY

Applicant notes that the present application claims priority as a continuation-in-part to US Patent No. 6,026,410, and to a provisional application. Neither priority date is acknowledged on the Office Action Summary. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner acknowledge the priority of the present application.

ART REJECTIONS

Examiner rejected claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e), as being anticipated by Allen et al, US Patent No. 6,026,410. Examiner rejected claims 1 - 4 and 6 - 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hussey, US Patent No. 5,826,269, in view of Allen et al, US Patent No. 6,026,410. Examiner rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hussey, US Patent No. 5,826,269, in view of Allen et al, US Patent No. 6,026,410, and in further view of Donaldson, US Patent No. 6,321,267.

Applicants respectfully submit that Allen is not properly recited against the present invention. The present invention is a continuation-in-part (CIP) of Allen. Therefore, for anything disclosed in Allen, the effective date of the present application is the filing date of Allen. Therefore, Allen must be removed as a prior art document for

the purposes of rejecting the present application. A double patenting rejection may be given, if the Examiner considers the present invention to be identical to Allen. However, Applicants have amended claims 9 and 10, to further clarify the present invention.

Therefore, since Allen is not a proper reference against the present invention, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentable over the references cited.


Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the amendments and discussion set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome. Accordingly the present and amended claims should be found to be in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Judith A. Szepesi at (408) 720-8300.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

9. (Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a parser to identify a keyword in a message received from a user and to identify
a connector based on the keyword;

a connector file to indicate an action associated with the connector [keyword];

an action logic to perform the action; and

a [response logic] communication unit to send a response with a result from the action
[to the user].